

## ACROSS THE DANUBE.

A GREAT BATTLE DEEMED IMMINENT.  
THE TURKS WITHDRAWING QUICKLY FROM MONTENEGRO.

In Armenia, it is conceded that the Turkish prospects are brighter. Muchtar Pasha has a strong position at Zewin, on the road from Kars to Erzerum, and also retainerhold of Delibala, where the road from Bayazid enters the Araxes valley. He has likewise taken steps to defend Develuhun, a position in front of Erzerum, in case he is driven from his other strongholds. Just as Montenegro was in danger of being crushed, there comes news that Saib Pasha has fallen back to North Albania, owing, no doubt, to the invasion of Bulgaria, where his troops are urgently needed. On Saturday the Russians were still crossing the Danube at Sistova. Abdul Kerm declares that there are 60,000 of them in Bulgaria, and that a battle is imminent at Biala, on the Jantra, the southern apex of a triangle, of which Sistova and Rusechuk are the base. The town is 20 miles from Sistova, 30 from Rusechuk and 30 from Timova, likewise on the Jantra, and understood to be one of the objective points of the Russian army.

## CROSSING THE DANUBE.

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF A BATTLE—AN ENGAGEMENT EXPECTED AT BIALA—RUSSIANS STILL CROSSING.

LONDON, July 18.—The Observer has a despatch from Constantinople, Saturday evening, which says: "A terrible battle is progressing near Sistova. Reinforcements are being hastily forwarded from Rusechuk, Shumlay, and Nikopolis. The Turks are still holding their ground, and their artillery is inflicting great loss upon the Russians."

A Reuter despatch from Constantinople of 21 hours later date, says: "Abdul Kerm, replying to a telegram sent him today (Sunday) by the Council of Ministers, reports that up to the present 60,000 Russians have crossed the Danube. A battle is imminent at Biala, which is expected to last several days."

LONDON, Monday, July 23, 1877.

A Russian official despatch dated Simniza, June 20th, does not mention any further fighting. It says: "The bridge to Sistova is being constructed without impediment. The passage of troops by pontoon bridges continues."

## THE TOWN OF RUSECHUK DESTROYED.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 1, 1877.

The Porte has published the following official despatch: "The Russians, defying the rights of humanity, and without any military necessity, have completely destroyed the flourishing town of Rusechuk, which is now nothing but a heap of ruins. They spared neither mosques, churches, hospitals nor public buildings. We hereby make known their act to the justice and humanity of Europe, and to the public conscience."

## RUSSIANS BEATEN AT SUKUM-KALEH.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 1, 1877.

Faizi Pasha telegraphs from Sukum-Kaleh, on the Caucasian coast, that the Turks, having landed at Tehnashid and begun to erect entrenchments, were, on June 27th, attacked by 15,000 Russians. Both sides were subsequently reinforced, and Turkish reinforcements arriving by sea from Batoum. The Turks, with the assistance of Russian troops, routed the Russians with the loss of 2,000 killed and 4,000 wounded. Ninety Turks were killed and 230 wounded. A telegram from the Commander of the fleet confirms the foregoing, but the proportion of losses on the two sides is evidently unrepresented.

## THE CONQUEST OF BULGARIA.

THE TURKS REVERTING—THE RUSSIANS EXTENDING THEIR SWAY—THE CAZAR CROSSES THE DANUBE—A GENERAL REVOLT TO BE STIMULATED.

PARIS, July 1.

La France publishes the following special telegram dated St. Petersburg, Saturday: "The Czar's proclamation is regarded here as a signal for Bulgarian insurrection throughout the Peninsula."

"A dispatch from the Czar announces that the Turks are retreating, and all Bulgaria, except the quadrilateral, may be considered in the hands of the Russians. M. Boyetch will be appointed Prefect of the Vilayet of Rusechuk, by official decree."

## MOVEMENTS OF THE CAZAR.

LONDON, July 1, 1877.

A Reuter despatch from Bucharest says: "There is no further information here about the fighting opposite Simniza; but some details have been received concerning the movements of the Czar. He witnessed the bombardment of Nikopolis, which was reduced to ashes. After the fight at Sistova he visited the wounded at Simniza and decorated several who had especially distinguished themselves. Afterwards he crossed the Danube near Sistova and was joyfully welcomed by the Bulgarians."

## THE RUSSIAN PROGRESS REVIEWED.

The long-expected crisis which Europe has been waiting has virtually passed without a struggle. The Russian left is in force near Kirsowa, and all their troops between Halarash and Ismail, some 30,000, have by this time passed from the northern to the southern bank of the Danube, and driven the Turks to what they call their second line of defence at Kustendi, and the Roman walls. These present no obstacle worth speaking of. It is otherwise with Kustendi itself. Here there have been some heavy guns mounted, but all told, there are not more than 10,000 men at Kustendi, including the posts and forces driven in from the banks of the Danube. The investment of Kustendi by land may be expected to follow soon from the Russian movement.

The Russian center crossed at Simniza easily and with trifling loss, according to the latest despatches, although it is noticeable that no narrative of events since Thursday morning has been permitted to come through the Russian lines. Gen. Miloutie, the Russian War Minister, sends a telegram, dated Simniza, June 30, about the operations in Asia Minor, but vouchsafes no word concerning Russian progress at the point, which is now the focus of the world's gaze. This would naturally lead to the belief that the Russians are encountering some unexpected obstacle, and their success in establishing themselves South of the Danube is not as complete as at first represented. It is not well, however, to draw such conclusion too hastily, for the Russians heretofore have had wonderful success in silencing correspondents when any movement was in preparation or progress, only permitting it to be reported when fully effected and the results secured. So that any moment may bring here a fresh bulletin of the Czar to the Empress announcing a great victory or successful strategic movement. Assuming that the crossing near Simniza is as successful as that on the left wing, it is probable the Russians will cross at other points, threatening the Turkish Rusechuk and Varna line, east and west, by at least 180,000 men. This will force the troops to wheel round and face the Danube, so that Shumla forms their centre whilst the left rests on Osmar-Bazar and the right on Bazardjik. The advance of the Russo-Romanian right will paralyze Widdin, and thus leave the centre of Bulgaria practically denuded of troops, in the face of another 80,000 to 100,000, which the Russians can pour across at Turou-Magurelli.

A French military critic, writing before the events of Simniza were known, said: "No matter how serious in appearance the partial attacks the Russians may direct against either flank; no matter what line of operations they may choose for their forward movement, after passing the Danube, it is certain that towards the center the main body of their army will act. The success of this maneuver would have

for immediate effect to cut the Turkish line of defense in two and place the whole of Bulgaria, up to the Balkans, at the discretion of the Russians."

## INCIDENTS OF THE CONFLICT.

It was persistently announced at Vienna yesterday that a battle was raging below Sistova.

The bombardment along the Danube is described as frightful. At Rusechuk the German consulate was destroyed by twenty-four shells, the French by three, and the Austrian consulate was riddled. The military hospital in the Jews' quarter received seventy-two shells. They fall everywhere, and no spot could be considered safe. Up to Wednesday the Turks had thrown 2,000 to 3,000 shells into Gurguevo. However, though the streets here and there are plover up and houses bored through, not more than one house in twenty or thirty is seriously injured. At Olenitzka Gen. Ebreuworth, of the Eleventh Infantry Division, was shot through the shoulder by a Turkish sharp-shooter from the other side of the Danube. On Wednesday Olenitzka the Russians succeeded in unmasking the Turkish batteries by launching a fleet of eight boats loaded with dummy soldiers. When the fleet reached mid-stream it drew fire from a thousand rifles and many cannon upon itself and the Russian earth-works.

A municipal council has been installed at Matchin, composed of four Bulgarians and three Romanians, selected from the residents of Matchin. Citizens were also appointed to administer justice and superintend the organization of a provisional police.

## THE TURKISH TROOPS DISHEARTENED.

The ease with which the Russians crossed the Danube, and the feeble resistance of the Turks, as far as yet known, attracted much attention here. Suspicious and suggestions of treachery are rife. Russian writers, however, find the explanation in their conviction that the Turkish army itself has little heart in the struggle, and that the unpaid legions, and their equally unpaid officers, are not strongly averse to a change in their condition, knowing it can not be worse. Should they be shut up in their intrenchments they may resist with characteristic obstinacy, but there seems to be an utter absence of that acting which is always the result of heartiness in a struggle and it would not be astonishing to see the whole Turkish force strangely collapse. This view is, however, not in accordance with the accounts of the Turkish Danubian army, given by correspondents within its lines. The truth probably is, that the Russians ascertained where the Turkish line was weakest through spies and deserters and took an intelligent advantage of such information. Of course it is impossible that the Turks have an army within striking distance of every point available for crossing on a line of nearly 300 miles.

## THE DEFENSE OF ARMENIA.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS FOR THE TURK—A STRONG POSITION HELD AT ZEWIN—TURKISH GAINS AT BATUM.

LONDON, July 1, 1877.

As regards the general position of the Turks in Asia Minor there can be little doubt that it has improved. The slowness of the Russian advance has not only created confidence, but given time for making preparations, in consequence of which it has been resolved to defend the junction of roads from Kars and Bayazid in the Araxes valley. For this purpose the transverse ridge west of Zewin, which is crossed by both roads from Kars over the Sughrun, has been occupied by the Turkish main force and strengthened by entrenchments, while at Delibala, where roads from Bayazid come down into the Araxes valley, the Turkish right wing has taken position to prevent the Russians from debouching out of the pass. The two positions are near enough to support each other in case of need, while there is a small reserve at Kuprikoi, which may be used to assist either column, or occasionally serve as a rallying-point should the Russian centre succeed in an attempt to storm the northern end of the Sughrun dells and gain a footing on the plateau of Olte and Bardenz; or should it prove true, as reported, that a strong Russian force has succeeded in reaching Khorasan, Mukhtar Pasha will probably concentrate his forces between Kuprikoi and Kassarankaleh. Preparations are making in the contingency of his inability to maintain the ground there, to defend the position of Develuhun in front of Erzerum, which is likewise strengthened by earthworks.

It seems evident from a comparison of Russian and Turkish official despatches and reports of correspondents, that the Turks had decidedly the best of the recent fighting both at Delibala and Zewin. At the latter place the brunt of defence fell on the command of Cheftak Pasha, notorious for participation in the Bulgarian massacres, and report says that he greatly distinguished himself and contributed largely to the Turkish success by personal prowess.

The repulse at Zewin is admitted in a Russian official despatch, which says: "After the Russians were driven from the foremost positions near Zewin on the 20th inst., they retired to their previous lines to escape the Turkish fire. The Russian troops fought with great heroism and suffered considerable losses, because the enemy were numerically superior. Six officers were killed and twenty-four wounded. Eight hundred and fifty privates were disabled."

Derwish Pasha telegraphs from Batum to Constantinople under date of June 20th as follows: "After the recent engagement the Russians removed their guns from Sampe Heights and withdrew their left wing to Kossobon. To-day a detached column of the Turkish right wing attacked the Russians and drove them back to their old entrenchments at Djeahangur." When Derwish Pasha telegraphed fighting still continued, but Sampe and Kossobon Heights were both in his hands.

## ENGLAND ALARMED.

RUSSIA REGARDED WITH RENEWED DISTRUST—CALLS FOR INTERVENTION.

LONDON, July 1, 1877.

The effect in England of the Russian success has been to renew the discussion about British interests. Anti-Russian newspapers, like *The Daily Telegraph* and *Morning Post*, are greatly excited. They call for instant preparation to protect the interests and honor of the country, which lie under a most direct and deadly menace. They find the Czar's proclamation a revolutionary manifesto, indicating a determination to annex Bulgaria. They add this to the reputed intention of Russia to claim Armenia and the Turkish ironclad fleet as indemnity, and enforce the free passage of the Dardanelles, and declare such changes would rob England of every real rampart for her Eastern Empire. But it is noticeable that papers of quite a different class are beginning to exhibit uneasiness.

The Economist calls attention to the probability that if the Dardanelles are to be kept closed against the Russians by force England must do it alone, because the other Powers are not sufficiently interested in that result to justify anticipation of their co-operation.

The Observer to-day declares the time has arrived when the Government should know itself and be prepared to enforce its views when necessity demands.

Anti-Turkish papers are very guarded in their comments and devote attention chiefly to discussing Russia's position and attacking the Ministry for not taking the opportunity to make further declarations of policy. The Daily News yesterday declared it was the common report that the demand for an extraordinary credit, of which so much lately is heard, has not been abandoned, but will be brought forward later on, and perhaps in some modified form. If the Ministry could get over some internal obstacles to perfect unanimity, the demand would be made at once.

Daily News believes if the position of England remains unchanged until prorogation, and the min-

isters and parliament are scattered in the country, Lord Beaconsfield, and those of his colleagues who think with him, may commit the country to a policy which would never have been accepted if there had been free and timely communication between the Government and the House of Commons.

The Saturday Review sums up the political situation so far as concerns European Turkey thus: "At the end of a costly campaign, though it may, perhaps, have been victorious, Russia will depend on the permission of Austria to effect a permanent conquest in Turkey."

## THE MONTENEGRIN WAR.

SAIB PASHA RETURNING TO ALBANIA—THE HEROIC MOUNTAINEERS SAFE FROM DESTRUCTION.

PARIS, July 1, 1877.

Saib Pasha's army has fallen back to North Albania. Montenogers are out of danger.

## THE RECENT SITUATION.

LONDON, July 1, 1877.

Reports from Montenegro are conflicting, but the best information leads to the belief that the success of Suliman and Saib Pashas has been complete. The Turks place their entire losses at 2,000 killed and wounded, but hardly so far out of the way as the Montenogers claim of over 10,000 Turks killed. The fighting forces of the Montenogers are now chiefly wedged in between the Valley of the Zeta and the Austrian frontier, whilst Suliman and Saib Pashas are awaiting the advance of Mehmet Ali along the Morastha to clear the eastern portion of the country and intercept flight either across the Valley of the Zeta to the Prince's headquarters, or down the Morastha into the Katschi Mountains.

A telegram via Ragusa from Scutari sources claim the defeat of Mehmet Ali with great slaughter; but it is unconfirmed and probably untrue. It must be remembered that the Turkish forces now in Montenegro or on the confines number some 60,000 men, nearly half the total population of the principality.

## WAR SCENES AND TOPICS.

ON TO THE BALKAN.

Military writers have described Bulgaria as a vast fortress, the Danube being the wet ditch, the gentle slope from the Balkan to the river being the glacis and the mountain range the rampart. The Russians have crossed the ditch and the glacis now lies in front of them. Midway between the ditch and the rampart is a line of strongholds, which serve the double purpose of advanced posts of the mountain barrier and points d'appui for the fortresses on the Danube. Varna lies directly south of Oranovo; Shumla, the center of this second line of defense, is south of Silistria; Osmar Bazar and Pravadi are wretched villages west and east of Shumla; and, finally, Timova, at the left of the line, is midway between the Balkan and Sistova, where the Balkans have crossed the Danube. The route from Rusechuk and Sistova leads to a few miles north of Timova. This is the ancient capital of Bulgaria. It lies in a mountain basin a thousand feet in depth, hollowed out by the river Jantra, and is surrounded by a forest of linden, chestnut and fruit trees. A tongue of land nearly cuts the basin in half, and on each side, as well as on the plateau, the houses are built. At the extremity of this tongue is an ancient castle, built on a elevated rock and connected by a bridge with the town. The Turks have always held Timova, and the town is now in ruins. Its position is naturally a very strong one, but the artificial defenses are insignificant. There are three roads leading across the mountains from Timova. Two of these are barely more than bridle paths. The other is by the left pass of Gabrova to Kessalik, and leads over a Roman causeway, by Gabrova, until the crest is reached. The mountains at this Gabrova pass are about five thousand feet high. This is one of the three defiles in the Balkan which military critics regard as practical for an advancing army.

## THE RUSSIAN ARMY CORPS.

The strength of the Russian army has been systematically exaggerated. Yesterday's despatches stated that the Fourth Corps was entering Boudnava by way of Ishterol. This corps has evidently been covering Odessa and the Crimea, and has been relieved by the new levies. There are now nine corps on the Danube in readiness for the invasion of the Dobruja and Bulgaria, and their effective strength is about 325,000 men. On the extreme right is the Ninth Corps, with headquarters at Shumla, resting on the river Selvi at Kujova, and supporting the Roumanian troops at Kalaraf and Turou-severin. The Tenth and Twelfth Corps are concentrated between the River Aluta and Simniza, and a portion of the Fourth Corps is at the Danube. The Eleventh Corps are at Olenitzka and Kalarash, and the other division was probably the one that crossed the Danube at Sistova. The Thirteenth and Fourteenth Corps are in the Dobruja, and the Sixth forms the extreme right, with the Fourth in reserve.

## THE RUSSIAN COMMANDERS.

The commanders of the Russian corps on the Danube are veterans in the service. Mr. MacGahan says that Lieut.-Gen. Gansetsky, commanding the Seventh Corps, had a regiment in the siege of Kars, where his defense was so valiantly conducted by Gen. Fenwick Williams. Lieut.-Gen. Prince Woronzoff, Tenth Corps, was wounded in the defense of Sevastopol. Lieut.-Gen. Radetsky, Eighth Corps, has seen long and hard service in the Caucasus; and the same is true of Lieut.-Gen. Prince Schabakof, Eleventh Corps. Lieut.-Gen. Krudner, Ninth Corps, has seen no service. Lieut.-Gen. Vannolsky, Twelfth Corps, retired in 1854 on the Danube. Lieut.-Gen. Hahn, Thirteenth Corps, commanded a regiment in Sevastopol during the great siege. Lieut.-Gen. Zimmermann, Fourteenth Corps, acted as aide to the chief of the staff of the Sevastopol in the same eventful period, and afterward saw long service in the Caucasus. Lieut.-Gen. Zoff, commanding Fourth Corps, has also been long in the Caucasus.

## TURKEY IN WAR TIME.

DISCONTENT AT THE CAPITAL—VALUABLE HORSES SEIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT—A GENERAL REQUISITION EXPECTED—INCOMPETENCY IN THE ARMY—FOREIGNERS PROSECUTED.

[FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 8.—The Assembly has given the Ministry some pretty plain talking on the subject of patriotic self-denial lately, and immediately after the Sofia demonstration the Ministry concluded to make a stroke for popular favor by enforcing the promised requisition on the rich for horses. Eight hundred and fifty carriage and saddle horses have been taken from the stables of the officials and the wealthy men of the city for the use of the artillery and cavalry. A long procession of these horses has passed my office every day for a week. Some of them are worth over \$1,000 each, and it seems too bad to have them go into the artillery. It is Turkish economy. No official could be trusted to sell the expensive horses and use all the proceeds for less ornamental beasts for the service. Hence these identical horses have to go to the wars. This seizing of fine horses is only the prelude to a seizure of poor men's horses. First let the rich give a little and then the poor can be squeezed again with a clear conscience.

The situation is very black for the Turks. The death of Ali Pasha in 1869 was the signal for a new policy in Turkey, which is known as the "Russian policy," which is really the foundation of the present collapse. Gen. Ignatieff was the steady defender and possibly originator of this policy. Its key-note was "Turkey for the Turks." Gen. Ignatieff used to go to the Palace with all the cringing servility of demagogue which Turkish Pashas put on in the presence of the Sultan. He found the Sultan by no means proof against this subtleattery. When questions of general interest came up in which the views of the Porte differed from those of the European powers, Gen. Ignatieff often sided with the Porte, on the ground that it ought not to permit European dictation. The wave of religious fervor which swept over all Mohammedan countries three or four years ago, beginning with India, worked exactly into Gen. Ignatieff's hands, and he was glad to see his Turkish friends so manly and so independent. The result of it all was

See Fifth Page.

## WASHINGTON.

## THE PRESIDENT AT HOME.

HIS GRATIFICATION AT NEW ENGLAND'S HOSPITALITY—HE GOES OUT TO A COUNTRY HOUSE NEAR WASHINGTON—SHORT WORK WITH OFFICIAL SEEKERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, July 1.—The President returned on Saturday, and spent to-day in resting from the fatigue of his journey. He is greatly delighted with his trip, and expresses much gratification at the cordial demonstrations that greeted him everywhere he went. It was a surprise to him, for he anticipated no such spontaneous and enthusiastic manifestations of kindly feeling. Indeed, he seems to have supposed that his journey would be a rather quiet affair, and the crowds, parades and public rejoicings that attended his progress through New England have evidently made a strong impression upon him.

The President and his family have gone out to the Soldiers' Home, and will spend the heated term there. They occupy one of the handsome cottages originally built for the officers of the institution. The house is large, airy and well shaded, and is known as the President's house, from the fact that it was in former times frequently used as a summer home for the President. The last occupant was Mr. Lincoln, who spent two or three months of every summer there, riding in to the city every morning on horseback or in a carriage to attend to his duties and returning in the evening. Andrew Johnson preferred the White House, and lived there the year round. General Grant departed from the custom that kept his predecessors all the time in Washington, and made a sort of summer capital of Long Branch. The Soldiers' Home is the most beautiful spot in this vicinity and is only about three miles distant from the White House. It is several hundred feet above the general level of the city, and from the grounds there is a beautiful view of Washington, the Potomac and the Virginia hills. President Hayes will drive in every day and pass the business hours at the White House.

To-morrow the President will take up the accumulated work of the Executive Office, and the army of office-seekers, including numerous detachments who have patiently waited his return, and fresh arrivals who timed their visit to catch him as soon as he came back, will make a vigorous attack. It is not probable, however, that any important appointments will be decided upon until the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday. The President is reported to be tired of giving up the best of his time to hearing the importunities of place-hunters and their friends, and to be determined to come to a speedy conclusion as to a number of prominent offices, the status of which is unsettled as long as the question is left open as to whether any change is to be made in such offices, and if so, who is to be appointed. The President is subjected to constant annoyance from the arguments and appeals of candidates and delegations of their friends. When a conclusion is arrived at, after a long period of suspense and agitation, there are usually ten times as many sore heads as there would have been if a decision had been promptly made.

## A MARYLAND BLUE LAW.

A FORGOTTEN ACT OF 1723 WHICH IS NOW MAKING A SENSATION IN WASHINGTON.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, July 1.—In the absence of Attorney-General Devens, Solicitor-General Phillips has given an opinion, in the capacity of Acting Attorney-General, which is making something of a sensation here. The *Sunday Herald* made the lowest bid for printing the tax list. Mr. Phillips' opinion is to the effect that an old Maryland law of 1723 is still in force, and prohibits bodily labor in the District of Columbia on Sunday. He therefore holds that a Sunday newspaper is an illegal publication, and that as printing a tax list is in effect a service on delinquent tax payers, such a list cannot lawfully be published in a Sunday paper. The contract was therefore given out to the next lowest bidder. The paper thus ruled out prints the obsolete statute in full for the general amusement and edification of the town. It is as stringent as the old Connecticut blue laws, and probably has not been enforced for over a century. The first and second sections are as follows:

An act to punish blasphemers, swearers, drunkards and scold-brains, and to suppress the laws heretofore made for the punishment of such offenders. Be it enacted by the Right Honorable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the advice and consent of his Lordship's Council, that any person who shall be guilty of any of the following offenses, to-wit: of blasphemy, or of the authority of the same, that if any person shall hereafter, within this province, wilfully, maliciously and advisedly, by writing or speaking, libel, or by any other means, shall publish, print, utter, or distribute any libel, or shall be guilty of any of the following offenses, to-wit: of blasphemy, or of the authority of the same, that if any person shall hereafter, within this province, wilfully, maliciously and advisedly, by writing or speaking, libel, or by any other means, shall publish, print, utter, or distribute any libel, or shall be guilty of any of the following offenses, to-wit: of blasphemy, or of the authority of the same, that if any person shall hereafter, within this province, wilfully, maliciously and advisedly, by writing or speaking, libel, or by 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